



## UK STUDENT VISA UPDATE - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (December 2022)

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### Documents required for visitors

Students with passport from Colombia and Peru no longer need to apply for a visa if they visit the UK for up to six months. They can enter the UK as visitors and they are allowed to study and do tourism during the six-month visit period.

Here are some of the questions we were asked by agents:

**Q: When a student enters the UK to study for less than 6 months (without a visa), what documents do they need?**

A: Documents are not always checked at the border, but we recommend that students have a course confirmation letter from the school, and their latest bank statement (showing they have enough money to cover their costs in the UK)

Under 18s need a parental consent letter to travel without their parents (ask the school for a template).

At the border, the students may be asked about their plans to return home. A translated letter from their employer or education provider will be helpful.

[>> See more information about documents required](#)

**Q: How much money should students demonstrate monthly if they enter as a visitor?**

A: There is not a set amount required for stays up to six months. We would recommend having approximately £500 per month if all fees and accommodation have already been paid for. The course confirmation letter should state if these have been paid.

**Q: When minors (under 18s) enter the UK without a visa to study English, do they need a custodian letter?**

A: Yes, any student under the age of 18 travelling without their parents should have a parental consent letter. In addition, students under the age of 16 staying for more than 27 nights/ 28 days must have evidence of a private fostering arrangement. Speak to your school partner for more information.

**Q: For programs up 6 months, do students need to buy insurance before they travel?**

A: We recommend that students obtain travel insurance which covers medical costs.

**Q: Are ticket reservations still required?**

A: If the students are travelling without a visa, it is better to have evidence of the return flight to assure the border staff that the student plans to return home within six months.

**Q: Do the documents have to be with an official translation (as with a visa application)?**

A: It is better to have the documents translated by a qualified person. The person translating the document must confirm the translation is accurate, must state the date and sign the document as well as provide their contact details.

## **Applying for visas over 6 months**

**Q: Can students over 18 years of age have financial assistance from family members?**

A: If family members are offering financial support to the student, the money should be transferred to the student's account before they apply for the visa. The family member should write a letter to confirm their financial assistance.

If the student (especially under 18s) uses their parents' bank statements as evidence of funds, they should show evidence of the relationship (e.g. a birth certificate). It is preferable though, for the funds to be in an account in the student's own name.

Students applying a visa (Short-term study or Student visa) must make sure their evidence of funds meets the requirement set out in this [GOV.UK document](#). This is complex document and if you have any doubts about a specific application you can contact us: [info@englishuk.com](mailto:info@englishuk.com)

**Q: Can you explain the step-by-step process for reimbursement?**

A: When students apply for a visa (longer than six months), they pay the application fee plus the international health surcharge.

If a visa application is refused, only the international health surcharge will be refunded.

When an application is rejected (eg. the wrong form is submitted or basic requirements are not met) the international health surcharge plus the visa application fee (less an admin fee of £25) is refunded to the applicant.

## **Visa durations and extensions**

**Q: Can students enter the UK without a visa (for a short course up to six month), and then apply for a visa for more than 6 months from the UK?**

A: Students who are in the UK as a visitor cannot apply for a visa from within the UK. If they want to stay longer than six months they will need to return to their home country in order to apply for a visa.

**Q: Is there any rule about arriving before the course starts and/or how long students can stay after the course finishes?**

A: For students studying as a visitor (without a visa) they can flexibly study and be a tourist during a six month stay. So there is no rule about when they can arrive and leave as long as it is within six months.

For students who need a visa – they should specify their intended date of travel if they want to arrive before the course. If no date of travel is given on the application, the visa will normally start no more than seven days before the course start date. On a Short-term study visa, students need to leave the UK within 30 days of their course ending (or earlier if the visa ends sooner).

**Q: Is possible to stay in the UK for 6 month to study, go to Europe for 2 weeks, and come back to the UK for another 6 months?**

A: Students who are non-visa nationals can stay in the UK for up to six months without needing a visa. This now includes anyone with a passport from Colombia or Peru.

When the student leaves the UK, their visit ends and when they return through border control they get a new six-month permission to enter. This may be fine. However, they may be questioned by a Border Force Officer (immigration officer) who will decide whether to give them permission to enter and study again.

We cannot guarantee that students will not be questioned.

## **Work rights for students**

**Q: When can students work in the UK?**

A: Visitors and short-term students cannot work in the UK.

International students can only currently work in the UK if they have a Student visa and are studying at a university. This means most English language students do not have any work rights - they usually study as a visitor, or with a short-term study visa, at a language school.

Currently, the only way for English language students to have work rights is to choose a university language centre. They will be allowed to work for 10 hours per week during term time and full-time during the holidays. There are few more obstacles, since they can only apply for the Student visa if they already have Intermediate English (B1) and if they have to pay the higher visa application cost and health fee.

To be sure if a student will be able to work, check with the institution before booking.